

round condoling ; and then, apparently, took her off to bed when the broken bones refused to allow her to be comforted. Well might the Select Committee disapprove of nursing by paupers ; but, at least, their offices, in this case, were, doubtless, kindly and well meant. Then the nurse seems to have "heard" of the accident, but "failed to discover any bruises," and clearly was not aware that the bones of elderly women are brittle. The result was, that the poor old woman was not treated for, at least, 24 hours—for the examination by the assistant medical officer took place the day *before* the accident—and then, naturally, the swelling caused by the unreduced fracture prevented any diagnosis being made. We do not desire to imply that the nurses, whose names are mentioned in the report, were intentionally unkind, or neglectful. Our information does not show whether the patient was under their care or not. We only state a self-evident fact when we say that this poor old woman was manifestly neglected, and that the system of nursing which permits such proceedings as those disclosed at this inquest, to occur, is absolutely ineffective and antiquated. Sairey Gamp is out of date, and the Guardians of the Poor of Lambeth must take steps to bring the Nursing Department of their Infirmary up to the standard of modern requirements. They would do well to apply to the Matrons of Chelsea or Kensington Infirmaries for information, as to the admirable system of nursing instituted in those Institutions, and then, as speedily as possible, take measures to carry out the necessary reforms in the wards of the Lambeth Infirmary.

#### THE BRITISH NURSES' CHARTER.

WE have received numerous requests for information on this subject, and therefore have pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to the following, which appears in this month's *Nurses' Journal*, the organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association :—"Nothing further has been done concerning the Petition of the Association for a Royal Charter. As we mentioned in the last issue of this journal, it was then expected that the Privy Council would have heard the case about the end of June. But, first, the Dissolution of Parliament, then the political crisis, and, finally, the vacation have caused the matter to be postponed, and we are now informed that the inquiry will not be held until the winter."

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### "The Best Thing to do."

BY C. J. S. THOMPSON,

Author of "Practical Dispensing."

#### PART II.—MINOR ACCIDENTS.

##### CHAPTER V.

#### ACCIDENTAL POISONING, BITES AND STINGS OF VENOMOUS INSECTS AND ANIMALS.

(Continued from page 652.)

**ACCIDENTAL POISONING.**—In rendering first aid in cases of accidental poisoning, prompt action is absolutely necessary if it is to be of any use. The first thing is to induce vomiting as rapidly as possible. An emetic may be quickly made by mixing a teaspoonful of mustard to a tumbler of tepid water, or if there is no mustard at hand, salt and water will do as well. A tablespoonful of ipecacuanha wine also forms a good emetic, and should be followed by drinks of tepid water until vomiting is induced. In the meantime, medical aid must be summoned. If it can be ascertained what poison has been swallowed, the following antidotes may be administered without delay.

*Corrosive or Mineral Acids.*—Give bicarbonate of soda in water, or whitening or chalk and water in copious draughts.

*Carbolic Acid.*—After giving the emetic, follow it up by large doses of olive oil.

*Oxalic Acid or Salt of Lemons.*—Give a mixture of chalk and water, magnesia and milk, or carbonate of soda and water, and excite vomiting.

*Laudanum or Opium.*—Use every effort to keep the patient awake. Give strong coffee at intervals, and keep the patient walking about. He must not on any account be allowed to go to sleep.

*Strong Alkalies* such as *Ammonia.*—Give a tumbler of vinegar and water, or lemon juice and water.

*Poisonous Berries.*—When children have eaten poisonous berries, &c., give an emetic at once.

*Poisoning by Gas.*—Remove the patient at once into the fresh air. Loosen the clothes or anything tight round the neck, or chest, bathing the face and chest with cold water, until the doctor comes.

*Bites and Stings of Venomous Insects.*—Much annoyance is often experienced in hot climates, from the bites and stings of venomous insects such as mosquitoes, fleas, wasps, hornets, &c. One of the best means of preventing this, is to sponge over the parts of the body exposed with a five per cent.

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